

REMARKS

In the Advisory Action mailed February 25, 2004, the rejection of all pending claims was maintained with a lengthy explanation. Claims 1-8, 10-26, 29, 31, 32, 35-50 and 52-55 were previously rejected under §103 as being unpatentable over Schotz in view of Allen, and some also in view of Anderson or Proakis. In the present Request for Continued Examination, claims 1, 11, 12, 14, 16-18, 26, 29 and 55 have been amended, claims 15, 19-25, 27, 28, 30-34 and 39-53 have been cancelled and claims 56-60 have been added; claims 2-8, 10, 13, 35-38 and 54 remain unchanged and claim 9 was previously cancelled. The Applicant respectfully requests that the amendments be entered, the following remarks be considered and the claims be allowed.

The independent claims claim 1 and 26 recite the claimed invention as including a single transmitter transmitting a single RF signal. Each speaker includes a single receiver to receive the signal. The multiple channels of audio are preferably multiplexed by TDMA, FDMA or CDMA methods and digital sequence spread spectrum (DSSS) or frequency hopping spread spectrum (FHSS) methods are preferably used to place the multiple channels onto the single carrier frequency.

When the data bit stream is assembled in the transmitter, an audio sample clock is obtained from the audio source. A transmission clock is then generated based upon the audio sample clock and included in the transmission. When a DSSS method is used, the transmission clock includes a chip clock and a symbol clock; when an FHSS method is used, the transmission clock includes a symbol clock. Thus, the RF transmission includes a clock derived from a single source such that the audio output from all of the speakers is synchronized to the single clock.

In addition, when the data bit stream is formatted for transmission, digital audio frames are created. Each digital audio frame is then divided into a plurality of transmission frames across which audio samples are interleaved to reduce the adverse effects of burst errors. Frame markers, used by the receivers to detect frame boundaries, are also included in each transmission frame.

None of the cited references disclose the claimed invention. In particular, the system of Schotz transmits and receives a signal containing two (stereo) audio

channels which are separated in the receiver and output (either as analog signals or as digital signals to a pair of speakers or further equipment). The two speakers (or the further equipment) are wired to the receiver, and thus the system of Schotz cannot be considered a completely wireless system as is the claimed invention.

The system of Allen includes multiple transmitters in the base unit transmitting at different frequencies. The system further includes multiple receivers in each speaker, operating at the different frequencies. In Allen, two sets (conditioned and unconditioned) of two RF signals are transmitted by the separate transmitters and received by the separate receivers. Ultimately, only a single audio channel is output to a speaker. Moreover, the transmitted signals are FM signals, not digital as they are in the claimed invention.

For the foregoing reasons, the independent claims, and therefore their respective dependent claims, are not rendered obvious by the cited references. The Application is believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is also encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone if a conversation would expedite prosecution of this case.

This constitutes a request for any needed extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency of fees submitted herewith to be charged to Deposit Account Number 19-5117.

Respectfully Submitted,



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